Development of renewable sources of energy

156. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the steps that are being taken by Government to develop renewable sources of energy and to promote large scale utilisation of solar assisted water heating systems in order to reduce the demand for energy from conventional sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): Government has taken up research and development, demonstration, extension and national programmes for the development and utilisation of renewable energy devices in order to reduce the demand for energy from conventional sources. 13.06 lakhs bigas plants, 92.85 lakhs improved chulhas, 152052 M2 collector area under various solar thermal devices including solar assisted water heating systems, 157700 solar cookers, various photovoltaic systems with over 3.5 MW capacity and wind electric generating systems of 34 MW capacity have already been set up in the country till 31st December, 1990 under the above programmes. Incentives like capital cost sharing, 100 per cent depreciation, soft loan facilities, exemption of central excise and sales tax etc. are being made available to the users/ manufacturers for the installation of solar assisted water heating systems to promote their large scale utiiization.

Review Committee on National Policy on Education

157. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Review Committee on National Policy on Education has reached a broad consensus on the modifications of the Policy of 1986 and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to formulate schemes to have dynamic inter-action amongst the regional languages to promote mobility and also inter-action amongst the people as suggested by the Review Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDEY): (a) The Committee for Review of National Policy on Education, 1986 submitted its report to the Government on December 26, 1990. Copies of the Report were laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on January 9, 1991.

(b) Government have not taken a view on the recommendations made by the Committee, which are being examined.

Conversion of coal into various petroleum products

158. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to utilise coal available in North Eastern region for conversion into various petroleum products, using special refining technology;

(b) whether any foreign oil expert has discussed with his mounterpart in India about the possibilities of transfer of technology for coal liquiefaction into petroleum products and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of reserves of coal and oil shale in the North Eastern region as per Government estimate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No such project is presently under the consideration of the Government.

(b) No Sir.